AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) A cancer metastasis inhibitor, comprising:

a compound inhibiting a function of connexin 26,

the compound being an aliphatic amide having oxirane having substituents in cis configuration.

2. (Cancelled)

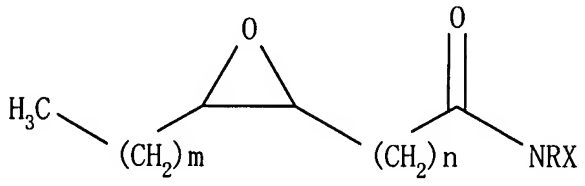
3. (original) The cancer metastasis inhibitor according to claim 1, wherein the aliphatic amide is a biogenic fatty acid.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (currently amended) The cancer metastasis inhibitor according to claim 1 ~~or 3~~, wherein the aliphatic amide is a primary amide.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (currently amended) The cancer metastasis inhibitor according to ~~any one of claims 1, 3, or 5~~ claim 1, represented by General Formula (1):



(1)

where R is a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group; X is one of hydrogen atom, a methansulfonyl group, an ethansulfonyl group, an acetyl group, a trifluoroacetyl group, a hydroxyl group, an alkoxy group and an amino group; m is an integer of from 4 to 10; and n is an integer of from 4 to 7.

8. (currently amended) The cancer metastasis inhibitor according to ~~any one of claims 1, 3, 5, or 7~~ claim 1, wherein a level of gap junction cell-to-cell communication (GJIC) against connexin 26 is four or smaller.

9. (currently amended) The cancer metastasis inhibitor according to ~~any one of claims 1, 3, 5, 7, or 8~~ claim 1, inhibiting no function of connexin 43.

10. (original) The cancer metastasis inhibitor according to clam 9, wherein a level of gap junction cell-to-cell communication (GJIC) against connexin 43 is six or greater.

11. (Amended) A connexin 26 inhibitor, being a compound inhibiting a function of connexin 26, and having an aliphatic amide having oxirane having substituents

in cis configuration.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (original) A connexin 26 inhibitor, being a compound inhibiting a function of connexin 26 and comprising an unsaturated fatty acid amide having a double bond with cis structure.

14. (currently amended) Cancer metastasis inhibitor according to ~~any one of claims 1, 3, or 7~~ claim 1, wherein the oxirane is located between the carbons in positions 9 and 10, counted from the terminal amide carbonyl carbon or terminal amide carbonyl group of the aliphatic amide of the fatty acid.

15. (original) Cancer metastasis inhibitor according to claim 7, represented by General Formula (1):

where R is a hydrogen atom, m and n are 7.